



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

|                         |  |               |                |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| <b>PROJECT TITLE</b>    | Sherwood Forest Shaded Fuel Break - 8CA11505 (CAL FIRE AEU)                                      |               |                |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b> | Portion of the E ½ of Sec. 9 & a Portion of the W ½ of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 10, T 7N, R 13E, MDB&M | <b>COUNTY</b> | Amador         |
| <b>LEAD AGENCY</b>      | California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)                                 |               |                |
| <b>CONTACT</b>          | Steve DeBenedet  |               |                |
| <b>ADDRESS</b>          | 11600 Highway 49<br>Sutter Creek, CA 95685   | <b>PHONE</b>  | (209) 267-5229 |

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project will create a 200-400 foot (100-200 feet on each side of Sherwood Drive) shaded fuel break, reducing the fuel loading along a private rural roadway through a mixed conifer vegetation type at approximately 3,500 foot elevation to improve safe ingress and egress in the event of a wildland fire. The shaded fuel break is intended to modify fire behavior and fire intensity which will increase the opportunity for fire fighters to engage in fire suppression activities while allowing for safer evacuation of the public. Approximately 50-100 acres will be treated utilizing hand crews to cut, pile and burn understory trees and brush within the proposed treatment area. Pile burning will be done on approved burn days as determined by the Amador County Air Pollution Control District in accordance with the smoke management permit. Burn piles will not be placed in or immediately adjacent to watercourses. Only trees less than 9 inch DBH and understory brush and slash are proposed for removal. Upon completion of the project the shaded fuel break will contain a well stocked stand of mature timber with the fuel ladder and surface fuels greatly reduced. Most of the project activities are expected to take place during fall, winter and spring months.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 § 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

This project fits within the Class 4 Categorical Exemption authorized by the CEQA Guidelines involving minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Specifically, subsection 14 CCR §15304(e) authorizes temporary use of land resulting in no permanent environmental effects. A CAL FIRE review of this project has confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This project will have no significant environmental impacts to aesthetics, agriculture, and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by CAL FIRE is kept on file at the CAL FIRE Sutter Hill Station, 11600 Highway 49, Sutter Creek, CA 95685.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

RECEIVED

NOV 05 2012

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

\_\_\_\_\_  
 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director

11/2/12  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date